

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/630,767

Applicant(s)

WATANABE ET AL.

Examiner

DIANE D. MIZRAHI

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8-10-07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 31-55 (renumbered 1- 25).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 8-10-07.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DIANE MIZRAHI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney John Krause on August 10, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented ~~An~~ information processing method in which material files, and scenario files ~~that~~ which control the material files, are recorded on a computer-readable medium in a storage means and in which a set of material files is reproduced automatically in a presentation form according to a corresponding scenario file, said method comprising: a first processing step executed by the computer, of instructing to make a predetermined scenario file in the storage means nonreadable; a determination step executed by the computer, of determining unnecessary material files from among the material files in the storage means, wherein the unnecessary material files are material files that are not controlled by any scenario file other than the predetermined scenario file that has been instructed in said first processing step to be made nonreadable; and a second processing step executed by the computer, of making the unnecessary material files, controlled by the predetermined scenario file, nonreadable.

32. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 31, wherein the scenario file is comprised of link information to the material file to be controlled.

33. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 32, wherein the material file does not consist of link information to the scenario file.

34. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 31, wherein the scenario file is a scenario file that describes a sequence for controlling each material file in a time series.

35. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 31, wherein the material file is comprised of one or more of image data, voice data and character data.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A computer implemented information processing method in which material files₁ and scenario files ~~that~~ which control the material files₁ are recorded on a computer-readable medium in a storage means and in which a set of material files is reproduced automatically in a presentation form according to a corresponding scenario file, said method comprising: a comparison step executed by the computer, in which, in a case of making a predetermined scenario file in the storage means nonreadable, the predetermined scenario file is compared with the scenario files other than the predetermined scenario file; and a determination step executed by the computer, of determining, based on a result obtained in said comparison step, one of the material files that shall be a target to be made nonreadable from

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mong the material files controlled by the predetermined scenario file, wherein any material file included in both a first set of material files controlled by the predetermined scenario file and a second set of material files controlled by the scenario files other than the predetermined scenario file is eliminated as a candidate for being made the target to be made nonreadable.

37. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 36, wherein the scenario file is comprised of link information to the material file to be controlled.

38. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 37, wherein the material file does not consist of link information to the scenario file.

39. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~A computer implemented information processing method in which material files, and scenario files ~~that~~ which control the material files, are recorded on a computer-readable medium in a storage means and in which a set of material files is reproduced automatically in a presentation form according to a corresponding scenario file, said method comprising: a first processing step executed by the computer, of instructing to make a predetermined scenario file in the storage means nonreadable; and a second processing step executed by the computer, of making nonreadable, from among the material files in the storage means, any material files controlled by the predetermined scenario file and not controlled by the scenario files other than the predetermined scenario file.

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40. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 39, wherein the scenario file is comprised of link information to the material file to be controlled.

41. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 40, wherein the material file does not consist of link information to the scenario file.

42. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A computer implemented information processing apparatus which records material files, and scenario files ~~that~~ which control the material files, on a computer-readable medium in storage means and automatically reproduces a set of material files in a presentation form according to a corresponding scenario file, comprising: first processing means for instructing to make a predetermined scenario file in the storage means nonreadable; determination means for determining unnecessary material files from among the material files in the storage means, wherein the unnecessary material files are material files that are not controlled by any scenario file other than the predetermined scenario file that has been instructed by said first processing means to be made nonreadable; and second processing means for making the unnecessary material files, controlled by the predetermined scenario file, nonreadable.

43. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 42, wherein the scenario file is comprised of link information to the material file to be controlled.

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44. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 43, wherein the material file does not consist of said link information to the scenario file.

45. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 42, wherein the scenario file is a scenario file that describes a sequence for controlling each material file in a time series.

46. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 42, wherein the material file is comprised of one or more of image data, voice data and character data.

47. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~A computer-implemented information processing apparatus which records material files, and scenario files ~~that~~ which control the material files, on a computer-readable medium in storage means and automatically reproduces a set of material files in a presentation form according to a corresponding scenario file, comprising: comparison means for, in a case of making a predetermined scenario file in said storage means nonreadable, comparing the predetermined scenario file with the scenario files other than the predetermined scenario file; and determination means for determining, based on a result provided by said comparison means, a material file that shall be a target to be made nonreadable, from among the material files controlled by the predetermined scenario file, wherein any material file included in both a first set of material files controlled by the predetermined scenario file and a second set of material files controlled by the scenario files

other than the predetermined scenario file, is eliminated as a candidate for being the target to be made nonreadable.

48. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 47, wherein the scenario file is comprised of link information to the material file to be controlled.

49. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein the material file does not consist of link information to the scenario file.

50. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~A computer-implemented information processing apparatus which records material files, and scenario files ~~that~~ which control the material files, on a computer-readable medium in storage means and reproduces a set of material files in a presentation form according to a corresponding scenario file, comprising: first processing means for instructing to make a predetermined scenario file in the storage means nonreadable; and second processing means for making nonreadable, from among the material files in the storage means, any material files, controlled by the predetermined scenario file and not controlled by the scenario files, other than the predetermined scenario file.

51. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 50, wherein the scenario file is comprised of link information to the material file to be controlled.

52. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 51, wherein the material file does not consist of link information to the scenario file.

53. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program executable by a computer to achieve an information processing method in which material files₁ and scenario files ~~that~~ which control the material files₁ are recorded in a storage means and in which a set of material files is automatically reproduced in a presentation form according to a corresponding scenario file, said method comprising: a first processing step, of instructing to make a predetermined scenario file in the storage means nonreadable; a determination step, of determining unnecessary material files from among the material files in the storage means, wherein the unnecessary material files are material files that are not controlled by any scenario file other than the predetermined scenario file that has been instructed in said first processing step to be made nonreadable; and a second processing step, of making the unnecessary material files, controlled by the predetermined scenario file, nonreadable.

54. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program executable by a computer to achieve an information processing method in which material files₁ and scenario files ~~that~~ which control the material files₁ are recorded in a storage means and in which a set of material files is automatically reproduced in a presentation form according to a corresponding scenario file, said method comprising: a comparison step, in which, in a case of making a predetermined scenario file in the storage means nonreadable, the predetermined scenario file is compared with the scenario files other than the predetermined scenario file; and a determination step, of determining, based on a result obtained in said

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comparison step, one of the material files that shall be a target to be made nonreadable from among the material files controlled by the predetermined scenario file, wherein any material file included in both a first set of material files controlled by the predetermined scenario file and a second set of material files controlled by the scenario files other than the predetermined scenario file is eliminated as a candidate for being made the target to be made nonreadable.

55. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program executable by a computer to achieve an information processing method in which material files, and scenario files ~~that~~ which control the material files, are recorded in a storage means and in which a set of material files is automatically reproduced in a presentation form according to a scenario file, said method comprising: a first processing step, of instructing to make a predetermined scenario file in the storage means nonreadable; and a second processing step, of making nonreadable, from among the material files in the storage means, any material files controlled by the predetermined scenario file and not controlled by the scenario files other than the predetermined scenario file.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 31-55 are allowed over the prior art made of record.

Applicant's particular material files and scenario files which control the material files in which a set of material files is reproduced automatically in a presentation form according to a corresponding scenario file which includes making a predetermined scenario file in the storage nonreadable, determining unnecessary material files from among the material files in the storage in which the unnecessary material files are material files that are not controlled by any scenario

file other than the predetermined scenario file that has been instructed to be made nonreadable, and of making the unnecessary material files, controlled by the predetermined scenario file, nonreadable in combination with the other limitations of the claims, was not disclosed by, would not have been obvious over, nor would have been fairly suggested by the prior art of record. The dependent claims, being further limiting to the independent claims, definite and enabled by the Specification are also allowed. The closest prior art fails to anticipate or render Applicant's limitations above obvious.

Comments

The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply outside the SIX (6) MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension for more than FIVE (5) MONTHS beyond the date for reply set forth in an Office action. A fully responsive reply must be timely filed to avoid abandonment of this application.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

As allowable subject matter has been indicated, Applicant's response must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP section 707.07(a).

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Other Prior Art Made of Record

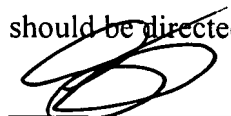
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure. U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications will not be supplied with Office actions. Examiners advises the Applicant that the cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are available for download via the Office's PAIR. As an alternate source, all U.S. patents and patent application publications are available on the USPTO web site (www.uspto.gov), from the Office of Public Records and from commercial sources. For the use of the Office's PAIR system, Applicants may refer to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html> or 1-866-217-9197.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Diane D. Mizrahi whose telephone number is 571-272-4079. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on (571) 272-4146. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 305-3900 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



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